

## Unit 10: Country Area Studies--Georgia

### Objectives

At the end of this section, you will

### Be aware of the following

- Variety of ethnic groups comprising Georgia
- Language importance in Georgian political strife under Soviet rule
- Spousal abuse against women due, in part, to lack of understanding of legal rights
- Presence of Russian peacekeepers in northwest Georgia, monitoring the Abkhazian ethnic tensions
- Unique Georgia identity (non-Soviet)
- Long history of multicultural interaction and tolerance which marks Georgian society
- Close ties (non-family of origin) which bind people together in much of Georgian society
- High status given mothers in Georgian society

### Identify

- Abkhazians, Ossetians, Ajarians
- Meskhetian Turks
- PfP, JCTP, SPP, IMET

### Realize

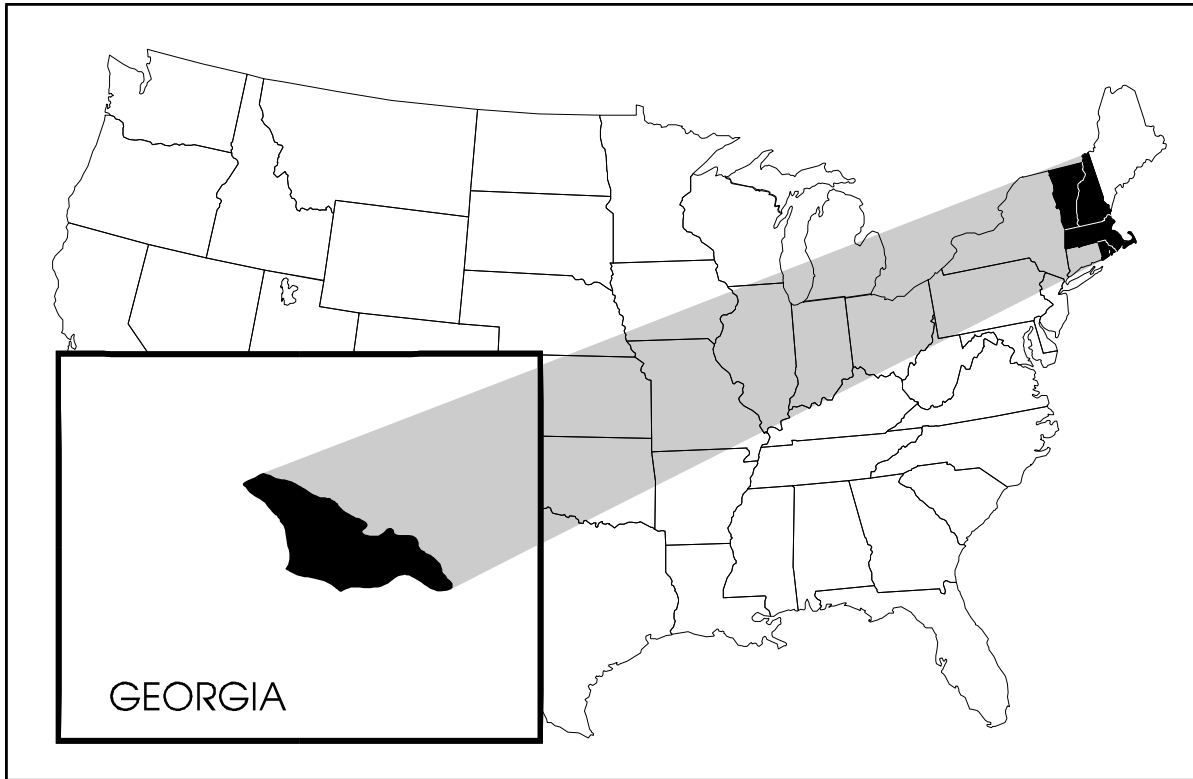
- Traditions of centuries of tolerance experienced by Georgia's minority religious and ethnic groups
- Close affinity of Ajarian and Georgian ethnic groups
- Displacement of Meskhetan Turks from Georgia to Uzbekistan during World War II
- Abkazia and South Ossetian ethnic tensions as the result of historic trends and Soviet policy
- Uniqueness of the Georgian language
- District languages spoken in Georgia

## Unit 10: Country Area Studies--Georgia

---

- Difficulties experienced by street children in Georgia
- Prevalence of drinking practices in Georgia
- Importance of toasts and family presence on significant dinner occasions
- Death and burial practices in traditional Georgian society

## Georgia



**Republic of Georgia** Other names include Kartveli (a person of Georgia) and Sakartvelo (Georgia). Names for the country in other languages are Gruziya (Russian), Gurgistan (Persian), Iberia (Latin), and Vrastan (Armenian).

<u>Population</u>	5,219,810
% under 15 years	22%
<u>Communication</u>	
TV	1/2.7
Radio	1/2.1
Phone	1/3.6
Newspaper	242/1000
<u>Health</u>	
Life Expectancy	63.43/72.98
Hospitals	1/119
Doctors	1/319
IMR	22.5/1000
<u>Income</u>	\$1,080. <sup>00</sup>
<u>Literacy</u>	99%

## I. Religious Groups

### Identity

- a. **Christian Orthodox** (75%, [Georgian Orthodox 65%, Russian Orthodox 10%])
- b. **Muslim** (11%)
- c. **Armenian Apostolic** (8%)
- d. **unknown** (6%)

## II. Ethnic/Racial Groups

### 1. Identity

- a. **Georgian** 70.1%
- b. **Armenian** 8.1%
- c. **Russian** 6.3%
- d. **Azeri** 5.7%
- e. **Ossetian** 3%
- f. **Abkhaz** 1.8%
- g. **Other** 5%



### 2. Population and Ethnic Composition

**a. Overview** "Over many centuries, Georgia gained a reputation for tolerance of minority religions and ethnic groups from elsewhere, but the postcommunist era was a time of sharp conflict among groups long considered part of the national fabric."

Modern Georgia is populated by several ethnic groups, but by far the most numerous of them is the Georgians. In the early 1990s, the population was increasing slowly, and armed hostilities were causing large-scale emigration from certain regions. The ethnic background of some groups, such as the Abkhaz, was a matter of sharp dispute" (Unless otherwise stated, the following quotes come from the Library of Congress Country Area Study--Georgia, 1995).



**b. Abkhazians** "Under Soviet rule, a large part of Georgian territory was divided into autonomous regions that included concentrations of non-Georgian peoples. The largest such region was the Abkhazian Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic (Abkhazian [ab-KAY-zhee-ahn] ASSR; after Georgian independence, the Abkhazian Autonomous Republic).

The distribution of territory and the past policies of tsarist and Soviet rule meant that in 1989 the Abkhaz made up only 17.8 percent of the population of the autonomous republic named for them (compared with 44 percent Georgians and 16 percent Russians). The Abkhaz constituted less than 2 percent of the total population of Georgia. Although Georgian was the prevailing language of the region as early as the eighth century A.D., Abkhazia was a separate Soviet republic from 1921 until 1930, when it was incorporated into Georgia as an autonomous republic."

**c. Ossetians** "In the thirteenth century, Ossetians (ah-SEE-shah-ahn) arrived on the south side of the Caucasus Mountains, in Georgian territory, when the Mongols drove them from what is now the North Ossetian Autonomous Republic of Russia. In 1922 the South Ossetian Autonomous Region was formed within the new Transcaucasian republic of the Soviet Union.

The autonomous region was abolished officially by the Georgian government in 1990, then reinstated in 1992. South Ossetia includes many all-Georgian villages, and the Ossetian population is concentrated in the cities of Tskhinvali and Java. Overall, in the 1980s the population in South Ossetia was 66 percent Ossetian and 29 percent Georgian. In 1989 more than 60 percent of the Ossetian population of Georgia lived outside South Ossetia."



**d. Ajarians** "The Ajarian (ah-JAHR-ee-ahn) Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic (Ajarian ASSR) in southwest Georgia was redesignated the Ajarian Autonomous Republic in 1992. The existence of that republic reflects the religious and cultural differences that developed when the Ottoman Empire occupied part of Georgia in the sixteenth century and converted the local population to Islam. The Ajarian region was not included in Georgia until the Treaty of Berlin separated it from the Ottoman Empire in 1878. An autonomous republic within Georgia was declared in 1921.

Because the Ajarian population is indistinguishable from Georgians in language and belongs to the same ethnic group, it generally considers itself Georgian.

Eventually "Ajarian" was dropped from the ethnic categories in the Soviet national census. Thus, in the 1979 census the ethnic breakdown of the region showed about 80 percent Georgians (including Ajars) and 10 percent Russians. Nevertheless, the autonomous republic remains an administrative subdivision of the Republic of Georgia, local elites having fought hard to preserve the special status that this distinction affords them."

**e. Meskhetian Turks** "The so-called Meskhetian Turks are another potential source of ethnic discord.

Forcibly exiled from southern Georgia to Uzbekistan by Stalin during World War II, many of the estimated 200,000 Meskhetian Turks outside Georgia sought to return to their homes in Georgia after 1990. Many Georgians argued that the Meskhetian Turks had lost their links to Georgia and hence had no rights that would justify the large-scale upheaval resettlement would cause. However, Shevardnadze argued that Georgians had a moral obligation to allow this group to return."

**f. Azerbaijanis and Kurds** "Among the leading ethnic groups, the fastest growth between 1979 and 1989 occurred in the Azerbaijani (a-zahr-bi-JAHN-ee) population and the Kurds, whose numbers increased by 20 percent and 30 percent, respectively. This trend worried Georgians, even though both groups combined made up less than 7 percent of the republic's population. Over the same period, the dominant Georgians' share of the population increased from 68.8 percent to 70.1 percent. Ethnic shifts after 1989--particularly the emigration of Russians, Ukrainians, and Ossetians--were largely responsible for the Georgians' increased share of the population."

### 3. Equal Rights

"The Government generally respects the rights of members of ethnic minorities in nonconflict areas but limits self-government in the ethnic Armenian and Azeri enclaves. The Government provides insufficient funds for schools in these areas but allows instruction in non-Georgian languages.

Violence in Abkhazia and South Ossetia reflects historic ethnic tensions and the legacy of Soviet policy, which was designed to pit ethnic minorities against one another" (Human Rights Report--1997).



## 4. Language

**a. Overview** "Even more than religion, the issue of language was deeply entwined with political struggles in Georgia under communist rule. As elsewhere, language became a key factor in ethnic self identification under the uniformity of the communist system."

**b. History** "Written in a unique alphabet that began to exhibit distinctions from the Greek alphabet in the fifth century A.D., Georgian is linguistically distant from Turkic and Indo-European languages."

It is considered one of the world's original 14 alphabets. Based on Greek, the shapes of the letters bear no resemblance to other alphabets.

**c. Soviet squabbles** "In the Soviet period, Georgians fought relentlessly to prevent what they perceived as the encroachment of Russian on their native language. Even the republic's Soviet-era constitutions specified Georgian as the state language.

In 1978 Moscow failed to impose a constitutional change giving Russian equal status with Georgian as an official language when Shevardnadze yielded to mass demonstrations against the amendment. Nevertheless, the Russian language predominated in official documents and communications from the central government.



In 1991 the Gamsakhurdia government reestablished the primacy of Georgian, to the dismay of minorities that did not use the language."

**d. 1993 statistics** "In 1993 some 71 percent of the population used Georgian as their first language. Russian was the first languages of 9 percent, Armenian of 7 percent, and Azerbaijani of 6 percent."

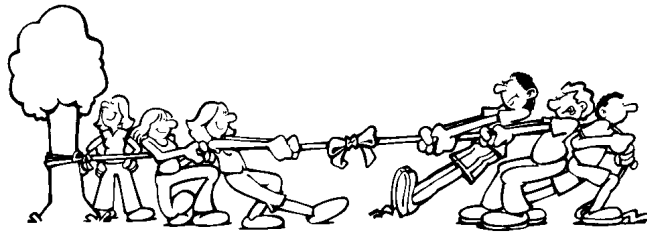


### **e. Discrimination Based on Language**

"The Constitution recognizes the equality of all citizens without regard to race, language, sex, religion, skin color, political views, national, ethnic, or social affiliation, origin, social status, landownership, or place of residence. The Government generally respects these rights.

The Constitution provides for Georgian as the state language, but not all minorities in Georgia prefer to use Georgian. As a practical matter, the approximately 400,000 Armenians and 300,000 Azeris prefer to communicate in their own language. The Abkhaz, Ossetian, and Russian communities prefer to use Russian. Georgian and Russian are both used for interethnic communication" (unless stated otherwise, the following quotes come from Human Rights Report, 1997).

## **III. Gender Issues**



### **1. Women**

#### **a. Overview**

"Women's nongovernmental organizations (NGO's), including the Women's Group of the Georgian Young Lawyer's Association (GYLA) and Women for Democracy, have been formed to promote women's rights.

These organizations report that spousal abuse usually goes unreported, and therefore uninvestigated, as many women are unaware of their legal rights."

**b. Abuse** "Spousal abuse reportedly is one of the leading causes of divorce. GYLA's women's group set up a hotline to provide counseling for women, and plans to open a shelter for battered women.

The Government has no support services for abused women. Sexual harassment is reportedly a problem in the workplace and is not investigated. Police do not always investigate reports of rape. There are no laws concerning trafficking in women."

**c. Workplace issues** "Women's access to the labor market is improving but remains primarily confined, particularly for older women, to low-paying and low-skill positions, frequently despite high professional and academic qualifications. Equal pay for equal work is generally respected, but reportedly men are given preference in promotions."



## 2. Children

**a. Government services** "Government services for children are extremely limited. The 1995 Health Reform Act withdrew free health care for children over the age of 1 year. While education is officially free, many parents are unable to afford books and school supplies, and most parents have to pay for their children's education."

**b. Homeless** "The Georgian private voluntary organization Child and Environment noted a dramatic rise in homeless children following the collapse of the Soviet Union. It estimates that there are more than 1,000 street children in Tbilisi due to the inability of orphanages and the Government to provide support. Child and Environment reported that during the winter, street children die of exposure. The organization opened a shelter that can only accommodate a small number of the street children. The children

increasingly survive by turning to criminal activity, narcotics, and prostitution.

Despite the cultural tradition of protecting children, the Government has taken little official action to assist street children due to a lack of resources."

**3. People With Disabilities** "There is no legislative or otherwise mandated provision requiring accessibility for the disabled. The Law on Labor has a section that includes the provision of special discounts and favorable social policies for those with disabilities, especially disabled veterans. Many of the state facilities for the disabled that operated in the Soviet period have been closed because of lack of government funding. Most disabled persons are supported by family members or by international humanitarian donations."

## IV. Conflicts

According to the CIA Fackbook (1997), there are no international disputes. Internal conflicts include: Abkhazian and Ossete unrest. Since the late 1980s, the Abkhazian and Ossete ethnic minorities have sought independence. Fighting broke out in 1991.

Peacekeepers (Russian) currently cover the Abkhazian autonomous center (northwest Georgia). In 1994, the Clinton administration offered assistance to support peacekeeping forces in Abkhazia.



## V. U.S. Policy

**1. Foreign Policy Objectives** "Our policy of strong support for Georgia's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity aims to bolster peace, stability and prosperity throughout the Caucasus. We are therefore working actively to foster conflict

resolution throughout the region, which includes our support for UN and Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) efforts to contain and promote peace settlements of conflicts in Georgia.

We also seek to further the regional development of the Caspian Basin's energy resources in order to diversify world energy supplies, enhance Western energy security, and promote U.S. commercial interests in the oil and gas sector.

Finally, the U.S. aims to encourage the development of participatory democracy, respect for human rights, and adherence to the rule of law as the fundamental guarantors of domestic stability in Georgia" (Secretary of State Congressional Presentation for Foreign Operations, FY 1999, p. 677).

**2. Defense** Georgia is engaged in the following defense relationships.

**a. Partnership for Peace (PfP)** The NATO initiated PfP program seeks to build improved ties with former Communist nations in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and the NIS. Georgia has chosen to participate in PfP. One selected PfP activity includes:

- **Exercise Cornerstone 97**, Tbilisi, Georgia, 1 Jul-29 Aug 1997.



**b. Joint Contact Team Program (JCTP)** This program provides a full-time military liaison team (MLT) in 14 of the former Communist PfP countries.

**c. State Partnership Program (SPP)** This National Guard Bureau initiated program pairs an emerging democracy nation with a U.S. Guard Unit. Georgia is the partner state for the Republic of Georgia. A number of partnership events have occurred and are planned for the future.

**d. International Military Education and Training (IMET) Program** Professional linkage between U.S. military officers and their Georgian counterparts is the goal of this program. Attendance of Georgian officers at a variety of U.S. service schools takes place.

## VI. Unique Holidays/Observances

**1. New Year's Day** (1 Jan)

**2. Christmas** (7 Jan)

**3. Easter Sunday**

**4. Independence Day** (26 May)



**5. Other Religious Holidays Include:**

**a. St. George's Day** (Feb or 23 Nov) An elaborate festival is held at the cathedral of Mtskheta

**b. Day of Souls** (Held periodically to honor the lives of those departed this life)

**c. Variety** Days honoring Mary, the Holy Mother; Saint Nino, and Mtskheta, the old capital and religious center.

## VII. Manners and Customs

**1. Overview** The following considerations are helpful to keep in mind when interacting with Georgian friends and military counterparts.

**a. Russia connection** Avoid statements or perspectives which link Georgia with Russia. Language, history and ethnicity are distinctly different.



**b. Rich history and national pride** Georgians are committed to their land and heritage. Throughout the centuries, emigration has been minimal.

Multicultural interaction, though currently marred by Abkhazian and Ossetian ethnic difficulties, through the centuries developed a high degree of religious and ethnic tolerance. Jewish peoples have lived in the region for over 2,500 years with little notable discrimination.

**c. Smokers** Expect few smoking restrictions. Be prepared for counterparts who smoke wherever they feel comfortable.



**d. Alcohol** Never attempt to outdrink a Georgian host. Remember that toasts are many and frequent. Determine now how you will handle this practice, which often is done with wine or other types of alcohol in hand.

### e. Family issues

**(1) Work roles** Traditionally women do household duties, instruction and child rearing tasks. Men do fieldwork, slaughter animals and are church

leaders. Men and women may share non-agricultural jobs. Most doctors, teachers and word processors are women.

**(2) Money distribution** Ancestral practice saw all wage earners depositing funds into a common, extended family account managed by the senior woman of the household. Purchases came after discussion, with the senior man giving the final say.

**(3) Women** Honor for the man is bound closely to his mother. Good and bad conduct reflects back on the mother. Women usually do not take their husband's last name upon marriage. Brothers and fathers continue to protect the woman even in marriage. Husband and wife are buried next to each other. Mothers are universally revered. Idiomatic expressions ("mother earth," "mother tongue") are far more frequent in references to mothers than fathers.

**(4) Kinship** "Spiritual kin" ties, whereby non-family of origin personnel become closely associated (like a family member) with members, are common. Wetnurse ties bind families together for centuries. Cut fingers (blood brothers and sisters) and other rites inaugurate a similar family cohesion. Godparents are universally recognized and often become lifelong friends.

Two to four generations may eat together in the same house or courtyard.



Abkhazians consider all who eat from the same pot to be extended family, even though they may live in separate dwellings. All who possess the same father's last name become loosely styled "brothers" and "sisters."

**(5) Disputes** Older men usually mediate domestic spats. Respected third parties may also sometime intervene, or the conflicts simmer and eventually die out.

## 2. Greetings

**a. Urban/rural differences** In cities, street greetings are uncommon. In rural areas, however, exchanges, smiles and discussions between strangers are more commonplace.

**b. Handshakes** Even in casual meetings, handshakes are common. Friendly embraces and kissing on the cheeks is likewise popular, especially among women and young people.

## 3. Gestures

**a. Discussions** Animated exchanges can mark many discussions. Georgians may use extensive hand movements to express themselves. Eye contact is valued.

**b. "Thumbs up"** Sometimes this gesture is used to show approval or appreciation.

**c. Pointing index finger** Though considered improper, this custom persists.



**d. Gum** Chewing gum, especially when talking, is frowned upon but may be practiced.

**e. Crossing legs.** Georgians will cross their legs at the knee, but always keep their feet off of furniture.



**f. Public affection** Many see young couples who display public affection as engaging in inappropriate behavior.



**g. Elders** When an elderly person enters the room, people usually stand.

## 4. Visiting

**a. Guests** "Any guest is God's messenger" is a common Georgian saying. A generous and friendly treatment of unexpected guests is a common practice.

**b. "Supra"** A ritual banquet may mark weddings, funerals, birthdays, holidays or the arrival of a guest. It is an expression of the strong, sacred tradition of family hospitality.

## 5. Eating

**a. Toasts** Standard toasts, with spontaneous elaborations, characterize many celebratory dinners. The older male host usually begins. Guests in turn elaborate, in the process becoming more under the influence of the wine used.



Common toasts are to parents, children, reasons for gathering, the people present, women, the departed and to the "holiest of all," the Holy Mother Mary. Strangers learn something in the process about their host. Enemies find kind things to say about each other. Older women actively participate while the younger women serve food.

**b. Family** Generally, most Georgians do not enjoy meals or visiting without the company of relatives and close friends.

## 6. Life Cycle Rites

**a. Marriage** Large feasts, dancing and singing are enjoyed on wedding days in some rural areas. More sedate, quiet affairs now take place in cities. A civil ceremony is followed by a church service to

exchange rings. When entering the groom's house, the groom sometimes is given a plate to break underfoot. The couple presides as "king" and "queen" at more elaborate celebrations.

**b. Bride "stealing"** The practice of abducting a bride, now often with her consent, may occur. It appears to be a form of elopement.



**c. Funerals** A valued practice surrounding death is to have close relatives in attendance during the final days. Traditionally, a dying person has a bowl of clean water placed beside the bed near an open window. The cleansed soul may then readily depart. On the third, fourth and fifth days after death, people come to visit. A priest comes, and following the funeral a feast is held. Forty days after death marks another memorial event. On the year anniversary, the formal end to mourning occurs. Mourners wear black. On anniversaries, holidays and the "Day of Souls," family members return to the cemetery for a small supper and toasts.

## 7. Cultural Literacy Concepts and Terms

**Film and Theater** "In the postwar era, Georgian filmmaking and theater developed an outstanding reputation in the Soviet Union. Several Georgian filmmakers achieved international recognition in this period. Perhaps the single most important film of the perestroika period was Tengiz Abuladze's *Repentance*. This powerful work, which won international acclaim when released in 1987, showed the consequences of Stalin's Great Terror of the 1930s through a depiction of the reign of a fictional local dictator.



In 1993, despite chaotic political conditions, Tbilisi hosted the Golden Eagle Film Festival of the Black Sea Basin Countries, Georgia's first international film festival. Georgians also excel in theater. The Tbilisi-based Rustaveli Theater has been acclaimed internationally for its stagings (in Georgian) of the works of William Shakespeare and German dramatist Bertolt Brecht" (Library of Congress Country Area Study--Georgia).



"Savor special moments."

## Vocabulary List: Country Area Studies--Georgia

**Abkhazians** (ab-KAY-zhee-ahn) Ethnic group located in northwest Georgia. Due to unrest, Russian peacekeepers have maintained a cease-fire in the region since May 1994.

**Ajarian** (ah-JAHR-ee-ahn) Historically, an autonomous region within Georgia. Many Ajarian peoples currently indistinguishable from Georgians in language and practice.

**IMET** International Military Education and Training Program. This educational initiative links U.S. military officers and counterparts in the New Independent States.

**JCTP** Joint Contact Team Program. A full-time military liaison team program where four U.S. military personnel coordinate actions with one of the 14 PfP countries.

**Meskhethian Turks** Ethnic group forcibly exiled from southern Georgia to Uzbekistan by Stalin during World War II. Many seek to return to Georgia.

**Ossetians** (ah-SEE-shah-ahn) Ethnic peoples comprising a small self-governing region within Georgia.

**PfP** Partnership for Peace Initiative to build improved ties with former Communist nations and the United States.

**SPP** State Partnership Program. National Guard Bureau initiative which matches one of the former Communist nations with a National Guard state in the U.S.

## Review Quiz: Country Area Studies--Georgia



**Multiple Choice**--Place the letter of the most correct answer in the blank provided.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ The Ajarian region is located in \_\_\_\_\_ Georgia.
  - A. Gulf Shores
  - B. southwest
  - C. northeast
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Soviet ethnic policy in Georgia was designed to
  - A. promote tolerance and understanding between groups.
  - B. set one group against another.
  - C. suppress any ethnic consciousness.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ The Georgian linguistic structure is
  - A. a unique one, breaking away from the Greek alphabet in the 400's A.D.
  - B. similar to Russian though said in a slower drawl.
  - C. of the family of Turkish and Indo-European languages.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ According to the Human Rights Report of 1997, spousal abuse and women's issues
  - A. receive a wide media and educational treatment through the women's group of the Georgian Young Lawyer Association.
  - B. receive much government attention through federal support services.
  - C. see abuse going unreported as many women are unaware of their legal rights.

## Unit 10: Country Area Studies--Georgia

---

5. \_\_\_\_\_ Russian peacekeepers are currently
- A. barred from setting foot on Georgian soil.
  - B. active in the Abkhazian section of northwest Georgia.
  - C. being replaced by U.N. peacekeepers from Pakistan and Romania.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Under the State Partnership Program (SPP), \_\_\_\_\_ is the partner state with the Republic of Georgia.
- A. Alabama
  - B. Oregon
  - C. Georgia
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Concerning relations with Russia, most Georgians
- A. draw close linkage with their Soviet past and invite newcomers to appreciate their similar heritages.
  - B. appreciate newcomers who realize the distinct language, history, and ethnicity differences between Russians and Georgians.
  - C. were so indoctrinated during the Soviet era that currently few differences exist between the two groups.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Honor is often bound to the \_\_\_\_\_, with statements referring to "\_\_\_\_\_" earth and the "\_\_\_\_\_" tongue being common amongst Georgians.
- A. father, grandfather, father
  - B. mother, mother, mother
  - C. land, the good, earthen
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Within traditional Georgia society, guests are usually viewed
- A. with mistrust and suspicion, being a holdover from the Soviet era.
  - B. as God's messengers and expected to be treated with generosity and respect.
  - C. as welcome, so long as they stay no more than three days during any visit.

10. \_\_\_\_\_ Concerning toasts with Georgian hosts, it is good to
- A. drink all with great gusto, as Georgians appreciate guests who follow traditional customs.
  - B. realize their importance but take precautions as guests so as not to become intoxicated.
  - C. allow the eldest woman in the house to initiate the first toast.



## Resources for Further Study: Country Area Studies--Georgia

Friedrich, Paul and Norma Diamond. Encyclopedia of World Cultures, Vol. VI, Russia and Eurasia/China. New York: G.K. Hall, 1994. (Articles on Ajarians, [pp. 12-14], Abkhazians, [pp. 5-9], Georgians, [pp. 129-137], Georgian Jews, [pp. 126-128]).

Kaiser, Phillip ed. Country Profile of the Republic of Georgia. McLean, Virginia: Science Applications International Corporation, 1997.

Kinzer, Stephen. "A New Big-Power Race Starts on a Sea of Crude." New York Times, 24 Jan 99, p. 4.

Kinzer, Stephen. "Riches May Roil Caspian Nations." New York Times, 2 Jun 99, p. B1.

LeVine, Steve. "Democracy? Sure, Sure. Now Buy Our Oil." New York Times, 3 Jan 98, p. 5.

LeVine, Steve. "In Former Soviet Republic, Bribes Light the Night." New York Times, 7 Feb 99, p. 10.

LeVine, Steve. "Lesson in Caucasus: War Has Rules." New York Times, 14 Feb 99, p. 14.

Library of Congress Country Study--Georgia, 1995.  
<[www://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/cshome.html](http://www://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/cshome.html)>

New York Times. "Russia: Bridal Tradition (Kidnapping of Bride) on the Ballot." 29 Dec 98, p. A6.

Secretary of State. Congressional Presentation for Foreign Operations, Fiscal Year 1999. Washington, D.C.: Offices of Resources, Plans and Policy, U.S. Department of State.

Skabelund, Grand (managing editor). Culturgrams: The Nations Around Us, Vol I. Garrett Park, MD: Garrett Park Press, 1993.



U.S. Department of State, Georgia Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 1998. Released by the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, 30 January, 1999.

<[http://www.state.gov/www/global/hu...ights/1998\\_report/](http://www.state.gov/www/global/hu...ights/1998_report/)>



"It's a funny thing, but, as the years go by, I think you appreciate more and more what a great thing it was to be a U.S. Marine. I certainly can't say that I was happy every minute I was on active duty...People will tell me what a shame it was I had to go back in the service the second time, but now I'm kinda glad I did...Besides, I am a U.S. Marine and I'll be one till I die."

Ted Williams, Hall of Fame baseball player whose athletic career was interrupted for five years when he served as a Marine Corps fighter pilot during World War II and Korea